

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 30, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
US Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

We write to ask for your full and fair consideration of the I-25, Monument to Castle Rock improvement project INFRA Grant submittal from El Paso County, Colorado.

Eighty percent of the approximately 5.5 million residents of Colorado are connected via I-25, which stretches north to south through the entire state. I-25 serves as a vital link between Front Range communities and connects the Great Plains to the Rocky Mountains, as the only north-south interstate route through Colorado. I-25 connects the state's largest population centers and provides essential access to employment centers, military bases, and recreation and cultural amenities.

Denver and Colorado Springs are the two largest, fastest-growing metropolitan areas in Colorado, according to the 2010 U.S. Census. Separated by approximately 70 miles of I-25, these two metropolitan areas generate substantial I-25 traffic—and average daily trips between the two are projected to double by the year 2035.

The only remaining four-lane segment of I-25 from Denver to Colorado Springs, the approximate 18-mile stretch between Monument and Castle Rock, is referred to as "The Gap." Improving the connection between Colorado's two largest urban areas would deliver great benefits to the health and well-being of daily commuters, the reliability of interstate commerce, and the livability of adjacent Front Range communities. Improvements along this corridor will enhance mobility, address specific safety hot spots and provide increased travel reliability for users of the corridor.

Congestion, high speeds and climbing grades contribute to severe crashes and can lead to long periods of highway closures between Monument and Castle Rock. Travel delays and unreliable travel times are a source of frustration for travelers and will only get worse as Colorado's population grows to more than 8 million in the next 20 years.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug Lamborn".

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cory Gardner".

Cory Gardner
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken Buck".

Ken Buck
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael F. Bennet".

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator